

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00199 211159Z

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ACTION AF-06

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R 210850Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0199

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO

1. WITHIN LAST TWO DAYS, FATHER BARAKANA AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. NSANZE HAVE TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT MICOMBERO HAS DECIDED TO SEE ME SOON, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WILL BE BEFORE OR AFTER MY VACATION BEGINNING MARCH 28. BOTH HAVE NOTED THAT MICOMBERO HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT HESITANT ABOUT RESUMING CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OWING TO BAD TASTE LEFT BY MELADY BOOK, AND BOTH HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT I SHOULD LET THE PRESIDENT TALK HIMSELF OUT BEFORE MAKING MY OWN PITCH.

2. I AM SURE THAT THIS TOUR D'HORIZON COULD END UP COVERING ANY NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, BUT I INTEND TO TRY TO FOCUS IT MORE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS QUESTIONS THAN ON INTERNAL BURUNDI ISSUES. HOWEVER, LATTER ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN SOME FORM, AND AMERICAN AID (OR RATHER ABSENCE OF IT) WILL NO DOUBT FIGURE IN TALK. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY PARTICULAR ADVICE ON CONDUCT OF CONVERSATION OR ANY SPECIAL POINTS WHICH IT WANTS MADE, PLEASE ADVISE.
MARK

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